

**FY14 Priorities and Funding  
Inventory and Monitoring National Proposals**

**Project Title:** Inventory of Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnakes on Harris Neck, Blackbeard Island, Wassaw, Wolf Island and ACE Basin National Wildlife Refuges and Frosted Flatwoods Salamander on ACE Basin NWR

**Project Category:** Threatened and endangered species, baseline biotic inventory, protocol development

**Funding Request:** \$56,416 (allocation of funds to each refuge to implement the same protocol 24,000 ACE and 32,416 to Savannah Complex)

**Deliverable:** End of Year Report with distribution maps, protocol per I&M Survey Protocol Handbook

***Briefly, describe the deliverable in the context of the SHC framework, focusing on how the deliverable will affect Conservation Delivery:***

Eastern diamondbacks are currently undergoing review for listing as an endangered species in the 12-month finding phase. A 90-day finding by the Service determined that listing may be warranted as threatened. Baseline information for refuges is needed to implement adaptive management techniques and on-the-ground actions. Future trend information could tell us how our management actions or lack thereof may be affecting these populations. These management actions may include our present and timely use of fire on the island, control of existing feral hog numbers, possible creation of future additional nesting habitat both natural and artificial, and even consideration of introduction of gopher tortoise for creating burrows.

***Briefly, if applicable, describe the deliverable in the context of the national I&M 7-Year Plan (which focus area, goal, and task does this work advance):***

Baseline biotic inventory, BBI 1.0 and 3.0: compile and verify species on refuge lands and conduct baseline inventory. Endangered species act reporting, ESAR 1.3, 2.1: validate monitoring occurring by refuges for ESA species. I&M planning, IMPI 3.0: development of regional protocols in accordance to the Survey Protocol handbook to be reviewed and posted to ServCat.

**Cooperators and Partners:** Michael E. Dorcas (Davidson College) and John D. Willson (U. Arkansas)

**Submitted by:** R4 I&M Branch **Project Leads/Originators:** Chuck Hayes, Savannah Coastal Complex; Kimberly Hayes, Harris Neck NWR; Mark Purcell and Larry Hartis, ACE Basin NWR; and Michael E. Dorcas, Davidson College